



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/600,416 Confirmation No: 7010
Applicant : Claude L. RICKERD
Filed : June 19, 2003
Title : CONNECTION ASSEMBLY FOR USE WITH SPLITTABLE SHEATH.
TC/A.U. : 3767
Examiner : Catherine Witczak
Docket No. : 82410.0052 / 0B-048600US
Customer No. : 29693

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office communication dated March 23, 2006, requiring restriction, Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that a *prima facie* case for why it would be burdensome to examine all the claims together has not been made. However, in order to advance prosecution of the application, Applicant hereby elects without traverse Group II, Claims 9-15.

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Restriction Requirement dated March 23, 2006

Response to Restriction Requirement dated May 23, 2006

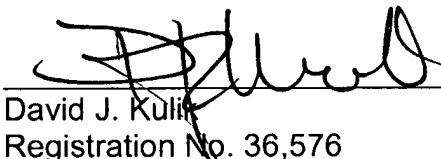
Applicant has fully responded to the requirement for restriction and respectfully requests timely examination and allowance.

Applicant has provided for a one (1) month extension of time on even date. If any additional fees, petitions, or requests for extension of time are required in order to enter or consider this paper, enter or consider any of the claims submitted, enter or consider any paper accompanying this paper, or keep this application or the previous application pending, Applicant hereby requests that the petition or request be granted and Applicant's representative hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1129 for any fees.

Respectfully submitted,
Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP

Date: May 23, 2006

By:



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